

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2955/307064.01
Application No.: 10/821,687
Office Action Dated: June 28, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. The sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2.

REMARKS

Original claims 1-37 have been canceled, and new claims 38-57 are submitted herewith. Claims 38, 49, and 55 are the new independent claims. Minor amendments to the specification and Drawings (Fig. 2) are also submitted herewith. No new matter was added.

In the Official Action, dated June 28, 2005, certain phrases in the specification were objected to. Claims 7, 9, 12, 13, 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-13, 14-25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-10, 14 – 23, 26 and 27 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over alleged applicant admission (“Admission”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,634,123 (“Bennion”). Claims 11, 12, 24 and 25 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over alleged Admission in view of Bennion and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,568,639 (“Wilcox”).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, 35 U.S.C. § 101, and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Because the original claims have been canceled, the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, § 101, and § 103(a) are moot. New claims 38 – 57 define over Bennion and Wilcox as will be apparent.

For example, new claims 38, 49, and 55 require that fragments be identified in a type field as a binary fragment, a LOB fragment, or a collection start and collection element fragment, respectively. The fragments are thus identified as having the particular properties set forth in the claims. A system reading these type fields will be configured to react to the type field to leverage the unique properties of corresponding fragments. Neither Bennion nor Wilcox disclose fragment types with the unique properties of the invention.

With respect to the binary fragment in claim 38, by definition this comprises a payload with a plurality of primitive data members in storage engine record format. Moreover, it is identified in a type field as a fragment that will contain such a payload. While Wilcox discloses a “binary type” (col. 15, lines 46-52), it is defined therein as “used to disclose data that is anonymous to the typing system of the invention.” Furthermore, claim 38 requires that the binary fragment contain all primitive members of a particular object. LOB and FS members are not considered to be primitive members.

With respect to the LOB fragment in claim 49, it has a value type field that “indicates whether the LOB fragment payload comprises an inline LOB or a pointer to a LOB location.” Neither Bennion nor Wilcox disclose such a value type field. Note that element 204 in Bennion’s Fig. 2 is described as “a one-byte field that specifies an attribute type that is used by the application program 106 in interpreting the stored data.” This is quite different from the the value type field limitation in claim 49.

Finally, with respect to the collection start and collection element fragments in claim 55, applicants point out that the collection start fragment contains a bit field that “indicates whether a plurality of collection element fragments are ordered or unordered.” This limitation cannot be found in Bennion, Wilcox, or any other reference of record.

Objections to the Specification

Applicants have addressed the outstanding objections by amending the specification as set forth above. Paragraph 0012 has been amended by removing the word “an” as suggested by

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the examiner. Paragraph 0014 has been amended by removing the sentence beginning with "For example, should be..."

Applicants have searched the specification for the phrase "simple cannot provide," which was allegedly at page 5, line 6. The phrase does not appear in the specification. Applicants request that the phrase be referred to by paragraph number, or that the outstanding objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants have also taken the opportunity to correct various other minor errors of typographical nature, as will be understood by review of the amendments set forth above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present reply is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submits that all pending claims of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

Date: September 27, 2005



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